

March 27, 2018

Dear UDF Battle Studios ~

It's almost here... The Battle of the Best! We are honored that you're studio will be literally Dancing with the Best at Utah Dance Fest this year. We hope your Battle Banner is flying and your dancers are fired up for the biggest competition of the year!

Utah Dance Fest BATTLE OF THE BEST



WHAT'S THE LINEUP?

The Battle Show Order is now posted on our website: www.utahdancefest.com PLEASE STUDY IT CAREFULLY ASAP! If you are concerned with the timing or space between any of your routines, we may be able to swap one of your routines with another from your studio – but only to allow costume/makeup change, not to put your routines in a specific order. A final show order will be posted one week prior to the Battle and will not be adjusted after that. Programs will be available for free on the day of the Battle but online lineups and info will also be available on our website under BATTLE OF THE BEST.

HOW DO WE BATTLE?

The Battle of the Best is designed to be a battle of the best teams in the region. So the fairest judging process will be used. Our judges are out of state judges who have little or no knowledge of the studios and dancers competing. All 5 judges will score every routine but voice or written feedback will not be given. The high and low score will be thrown out and the middle three averaged. At the top of each hour, we will calculate the CURRENT TOP 10 routines to that point and will announce them in the show as well as put them on a TV screen in the lobby and post the list on our Utah Dance Fest Twitter account. At the end of the show, the FINAL TOP 10 will be announced and the FINAL BATTLE will begin. Those 10 routines will re-compete and the performers will come center stage after each routine for live commentary from our Battle Judges. The BEST OF SHOW will be chosen from this final performance and the winner will receive \$2,500 CASH! One other award will be given to the studio with the highest average of their 10 routines – BEST STUDIO will receive \$5,000 toward their registration to next year's Battle of the Best.

WHAT ABOUT KINGSBURY HALL?

Kingsbury Hall is an historic and world-class theatre on the University of Utah campus. We are excited and honored to use such a fabulous theatre for The Battle. The stage dimensions are approximately 45' wide and 37' deep. The wings and backstage areas are big and roomy and there will be a nice marley surface on the stage.

Dressing rooms are all located on the first floor just inside the backstage doors where all dancers and teachers will enter (northeast corner of the building). We will meet you there to check in and stamp all dancers and teachers/directors.

No one will be allowed in the backstage areas besides dancers and teachers/directors. NO PARENTS! Please assign older dancers and teachers to help younger dancers dress and prepare to perform. Parents & spectators will be expected to buy their tickets (\$15 each – general admission) at the ticket office that day and enter the front doors of the theatre. PLEASE LET PARENTS KNOW THIS!

Also anyone helping carry props on and off the stage will have to get a PROP CREW nametag from us when unloading props or they will not be allowed backstage either. The University of Utah is very concerned with the safety and protection of minors and have strict rules about backstage access. Please let your parents and families know this.

AUDIENCE EXPECTATIONS?

Admission to The Battle is \$15 per person (except dancers, teachers and directors with nametags/wristbands which we will give you at the backstage check in desk). Tickets go on sale APRIL 2 but there is a \$5.50 per ticket service fee if purchased online, so we suggest you buy them at the ticket office the day of the show. Kingsbury Hall is very large and we don't anticipate a sell out so you shouldn't need to buy tickets in advance.

This will be a ticketed event but general admission seating so first come, first served on where you sit. It's not going to feel like a dance competition, but more like a show. The audience will need to remain seated until the 5-minute intermission at the top of each hour. So parents, family, grandparents who want to watch their dancers perform will need to be in their seats by the top of the hour in which their dancers perform.

Directors/Teachers/Choreographers will be allowed to come in and out of the show quickly and quietly through the stage doors and watch their numbers from the front row reserved for them.

WHERE DO WE PARK?

There is a parking terrace east of Kingsbury Hall and general campus parking is mostly free and open on weekends, so we hope parking won't be too difficult. We will have ONE RESERVED PARKING SPOT for each Studio in the parking spots directly in front of the theatre. Look for a sign with your name on it. We will send more detailed parking information as well as a parking map from Kingsbury Hall prior to the event.

HOW DO WE GET YOU OUR MUSIC?

We will not use CD's at The Battle, but instead ask all studios to EMAIL US YOUR MUSIC ASAP to: music@utahdancefest.com In the Subject line please put BATTLE (show#) – (Song Title). So it should look like this: BATTLE #24 – Let it Go. Jordan Larsen is our Utah Dance Fest MC and will be taking care of all the music. Please email that address with questions about music as well. He will let you know the week of the Battle if he needs anything more from you.

WHAT ARE THE RULES?

No routine will be allowed to perform out of order or perform twice (except those in the Battle at the end of the day, of course). All routines will move on and off the stage quickly and any props or messes made during the number will need to be cleared immediately by members of that studio. We will sweep the stage at the intermission at the top of each hour. We expect extreme sportsmanship backstage and hope there will be an exciting upbeat atmosphere both on the stage and backstage throughout the event.

WHAT DO WE GET FOR COMING TO THE BATTLE?

Besides the experience of being a part of one of the most unique and electric events in the dance world...each dancer and each studio teacher/assistant will receive one of our unique, cool BATTLE TEES. Each Studio Director will receive an embroidered Directors Jacket. Upon announcement of the Best of Show and Best Studio award winners, those studio's Tees and Jackets will be kept by us to add BATTLE CHAMPION or BEST STUDIO to the tees and Jacket(s). We should be able to deliver them to your studio within 1-2 weeks of the Battle. All other studios will take theirs with them that night. There will be very cool, but very limited supply of other UDF Battle Apparel on sale in the balcony obby throughout the day on Saturday. Tell your dancers and parents to visit the Battle Booth early in the day to get what they want before it's gone!

We can't wait to see you at the Utah Dance Fest Battle of the Best at 2018!

Angi